

VZCZCXYZ0010
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHPG #0930 2221122
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 101122Z AUG 07
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9472
INFO RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0234
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PRAGUE 000930

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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PARIS FOR USOEC

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: KDEM EAID EZ
SUBJECT: CZECHS SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNANCE

REF: SECSTATE 108794

(SBU) Pol-Econ Counselor discussed reftel points August 10 with Gabriela Dlouha, the new Director of the new Czech MFA Department of Human Rights and Transformation Policy (which combines the old Human Rights Department and the Office for Transformation Cooperation). Dlouha expressed strong support for the Partnership for Democratic Governance's objectives, and said the Czech Republic would become a founding member. Addressing the PDG's mission, Dlouha noted the benefit of making democracy an element of development policy. That said, Dlouha made clear that the Czechs will not be in a position to actively support the PDG. The limited resources of the Czech MFA devoted to both development assistance and democracy promotion are already fully tapped, and the Ministry has neither the funds nor personnel required to permit a substantial commitment to the PDG. Dlouha also noted that the Czechs continue to develop and expand their assistance efforts, and have set a target date of 2010 to join the Development Assistance Committee.

GRABER